Name of the country	Per Capita Electricity Consumption in KWh.
Australia	10502
France	7366
Germany	6742
Russia	5350
U.K.	6158
USA	13228

Distribution of electricity through private companies

3054. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government under the Electricity Act permitted the distribution of power in Delhi and various other States through private distribution companies; and

(b) whether it is true that no minimum availability of power is assured and no guidelines have been prescribed by the Central or by the State Government to ensure distribution companies provide minimum assured power supply *i.e.* 98%?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Privatization of distribution comes within the purview of the State Governments. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Regulatory Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area subject to compliance by the applicant with the additional requirements relating to the capital adequacy, credit-worthiness, or code of conduct as may be prescribed by the Central Government. Central Government has pescribed the rules regarding such additional requirements.

(b) Under the provisions of section 3 of the Act, Government of India has notified the National Electricity Policy on 12.02.2005. The main objectives of the policy are as mentioned below:

* Access to Electricity—Available for all households in next five years

* Availability of Power—Demand to be fully met by 2012. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and adequate spinning reserve to be available.
* Supply of Reliable and Quality Power of specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates.
* Per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2012
* Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2012.
* Financial Turnaround and Commercial Viability of Electricity Sector.
* Protection of consumers' interests.

The National Electricity Policy provides that consumers, particularly those who are ready to pay a tariff which reflects efficient costs, have the right to get uninterrupted 24 hours supply of quality power.

Programme for employment skills

3055. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a massive training programme aimed at imparting employment skill to one million rural poor in a year;

(b) if so, whether the programme launched formally by Rural Development Ministry would be implemented by CAPART through NGOs in rural areas and 150 most backward districts;

(c) if so, what are the States whose backward districts will be covered in the first phase of the programme; and

(d) whether this programme will help to create productivity and market oriented employment opportunities for the rural unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry has sanctioned a Special Project namely, '**Towards Sustainable Employment**